

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Sick Girl

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1100062.000

Medium: DVD

Distributor: Magna Home Entertainment

Director: Eben McGarr

Producer: P. James Keitel
et al.

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Film & Video Labelling Body

Classification:	The unexcised version of this publication is classified as Objectionable.
	The excised version of this publication is classified as Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Excisions: Recommended but not made

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 14 March 2011

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

	Components	Running time
Menu:	Play Movie Chapter Selections	

	Special Features	
Feature(s):	Sick Girl	78:30
Timed component(s):	Death By...	12:13
	A Public Service Announcement	1:33
	I Want 'Em Dead	2:32
	Stephen Geoffreys - Interview Segment	10:14
	Sick Girl (Original Teaser)	1:05
	Sick Girl (Original Trailer)	1:42
	Notices	0:30
Total running time:		108:19

Summary of reasons for decision:

'Sick Girl' is a DVD containing a low budget horror feature from the USA. Three excisions to the feature are required to remove material that depicts the infliction of torture, serious physical harm and significant cruelty to a high degree and in a manner that trivialises this under s3(3)(a)(i) of the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act). The excisions are also to remove material that depicts sexual violence to a high degree and in a manner that trivialises this under s3(3)(a)(ii). If these segments are not excised, the publication will be objectionable. In these scenes, humorous elements are combined with a spectacle of grotesque violence, degradation, rape and cruelty. This has the effect of trivialising the victims' suffering and the depicted heinous crimes. The feature asks the viewer to find this spectacle in some ways amusing. This is likely to inure viewers, as it fails to create an expectation that the viewer be repulsed by the highly graphic depictions of rape, torture and degradation. In this instance the offer of excisions was declined, and the publication is therefore objectionable.

Section 3(1) considerations of the FVPC Act have been weighed against relevant provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Given the manner in which the publication presents matters of horror, violence, cruelty and sex, the classification is a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression that reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that depict acts of torture, the infliction of significant cruelty, and sexual violence to a high degree and in a manner that is likely to be injurious to the public good.